Mr. C. O. Madhavan : There is no prohibition.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar : Is the Commissioner aware that local salt alone is being used there ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That may be because the merchants are purchasing only local salt.

Mr. H. O. L. Marikar : Will the Government be pleased to make arrangements hereafter so that local salt and Bombay salt may be purchased by the merchants in the Northern taluks in the proportion of two to one ?

President : The member has already told the House that that is the arrangement.

Registry of the Palkulam tank for salt manufacture.

72. ***Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to dispose of Palkulam tank in Kanniakumari pakuthi, Agastisvaram taluk, for the purpose of salt manufacture ;

(*b*) how many applications have hitherto been received for regsitry of the land for the salt manufactured ; and

(*c*) how many of the applicants are from Agastisvarm taluk and how many from other taluks and how many from outside the State ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : (*a*) Applications have been received for the registry of the Palkulam for salt manufacture.

(*b*) 4.

(c) Three applicants are from the Agastisvaram taluk and one from another taluk in the State. No application has been received from outside the State.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : May I know from the member whether the Palkulam tank is to be disposed of by public auction or by any other manner ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The question has not reached that stage.

Prohibition of Liquor.

73. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have not, at the time of Mr. Watts, declared that prohibition was their ultimate goal, that they would try local option in some places and that if it was found successful, the same would be adopted generally ;

(*b*) the places where local option was tried, its result, whether they acted accordingly, and, if not, why ;

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(c) whether they have any definite policy in the matter, and, if so, what ;

(*d*) whether they will lay on the table a statement showing the total consumption of each of the several kinds of liquor for each of the last five years, in Travancore ; and

(*e*) whether illicit trade, tapping, vending, and distillation regarding liquors have increased during the last three years ?

(*Mr. C. O. Madhavan first translated the answer instead of reading it for the information of the whole House*).

President : Let it be understood that the answer delivered on the floor of the House is not to the individual member but to the whole House and so the official member cannot expect the whole House to follow Malayalam.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Local option was introduced in the Municipal town of Changanachery in 1104. The success of the experiment so far is not very encouraging and therefore Government have decided to watch the result of the experiment till the end of 1110.

(*c*) Yes. The accepted policy of the Government is the ultimate attainment of prohibition.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*e*) No. There is nothing to warrant a finding that malpractices have increased.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether toddy shops are not allowed to exist in the Changanachery Municipal area ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Yes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know how many arrack shops are there on the boundaries of Changanacherry now ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I cannot exactly say that.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I ask whether Local Option could succeed if there are a large number of toddy shops inside the area ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know whether the failure of Local Option is due to the fact that there are a good number of toddy shops in the frontier of Changanachery ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That again is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know on what basis the Excise Commissioner said that the Local Option experiment was not encouraging ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Offences relating to illicit distillation are being detected in the Changanachery town.

Mr. K P. Nilakanta Pillai : Was there any demand for the introduction of liquor shops inside the Municipality?

* *Vide* Appendix II—page 440.

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Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I may give for the information of the House what took place when I was once camping in Changanachery. Some people who came to see me said that those who now want to drink are obliged to resort to illicitly distilled arrack on payment of high price and that they would rather prefer to have arrack shops where people can get licit stuff, on payment of fair price.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai Is it a fact that because illicit practice is being followed in Changanachery the member stated that the local option was not encouraging ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I have answered that question.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai Having introduced local option is it not the duty of the department to prevent illicit distillation of arrack ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The department is trying its level best to stop illicit manufacture. In fact there is a special staff for that purpose ; but very little help and co-operation are being received from the inhabitants of Changanachery.

Mr. K. P Nilakanta Pillai : With regard to representations personally made to the Commissioner by the people of the locality that the people are drunkards, may I know whether they are the representatives of the people ?

President : That is a very difficult question for the Excise Commissioner to answer.

Mr. K. P Nilakanta Pillai : With reference to part (*e*) of the answer, what is the basis for that ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : I have answered from the information that was available.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : May I know whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner called back the special party appointed to prevent such malpractices in the Kottayam Division?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Sir, may I submit that that is a different question asked by the member to be answered presently.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know from the Excise Commissioner whether a new kind of liquor called cocoa brandy has come in the market since the policy of prohibition was in vogue ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Yes.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know whether it has advanced the cause of prohibition or retarded it ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That was introduced with the intention of replacing the cheap varieties of foreign liquor and it has to some extent achieved that object.

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Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai : ഫ ൦ ർ-ന ശേഷം ഇതുവ രെ എത്രഷാപ്പുകൾ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: ഓരോ വർഷത്തെ കാൺടാക്കിലും കള്ളുഷാപ്പിന്റേയും ചാരായഷാപ്പിന്റേയും സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചു കുറച്ചു കൊണ്ടുവരികയാണ്. ഫ ൦ ർ-നശേഷം ഇതുവരെയും എത്രയെണ്ണം കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സൂക്ഷ്മമായി പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai : വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഷാപ്പുകൾക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള വൃക്ഷങ്ങളാം കൊടുത്തുവരികയാണ്.

Mr S. Piraviperumal Pillai : May I know whether illicit offences are on the increase or decrease ?

Mr. C O. Madhavan : That varies from year to year. That cannot be said either way.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : On a comparison of the administration report of the department for the last year with the previous one, may I know from the member whether they are on the increase or decrease ?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : That report is not with me now.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Is it a fact that in the review of the Excise Departmental report by Government, they have stated that the increase in the detection of illicit offences means non-vigilance on the part of the Excise authorities and also that illicit tapping is on the increase ?

President : Is the member reading from the report ?

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : No, Sir.

President : It was answered that the administration report is not with the Commissioner at the moment and so he could not clear the member's point.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : May I be permitted to make a statement in this connection. The review by Government of the departmental report says that the offences are on the increase and consequently detection has also increased. Further—

President : The Excise Commissioner has already said that the report is not in his possession ; nor have you got it.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : But the report is a published document.

President : But if your information is based on a non-existing document at the moment, how can the Excise Commissioner be expected to clear that ?

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Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : The review of Government on the report of the Excise Department says that the detection of offences for malpractices is on the increase. But the answer now given by the Commissioner is that illicit tapping and offences connected with it are not on the increase. How can I take it that the latter statement of the Commissioner is correct?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The answer says that there is nothing to warrant a finding that malpractices have increased.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : Then, is the conclusion arrived at by Government that when detection of offences is on the increase, illicit tapping is also on the increase a mere guess?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : Probably, the member bases his question on an assumption. It is not possible to answer such a question.

Mr K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : Sir, may I make a statement? Is it not the duty of the head of the department to be in possession of relevant records, such as the administration reports and the Government orders thereon?

Auction sale of Mannamkantam.

74. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it was with the intention of making it available to the poor people also that Mannamkantam was divided into small blocks and sold in auction?

Mr. K. George (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) Yes.

(The answer was read also in malayalam.)

Money spent on the purchase of tobacco.

75. ***Mr. J. John Kattakayam:** Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money that goes out of Travancore for purchasing tobacco?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : A * statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(The answer was read also in malayalam.)

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether there are places in Travancore suitable for the cultivation of tobacco?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : There may be places. The matter has not been investigated.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether the Commissioner has consulted the Director of Agriculture in this matter?

Mr. C. O. Madhavan : The question has long been engaging the attention of Government and the Director of Agriculture might have been consulted several times.

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Appendix II.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 73.**

Statement showing the consumption (in terms of Proof strength) of several kinds of liquor during the last five years:—

	Jaggery arrack.	*Cocoanut toddy arrack.*
1105	1,23,128·44	680·82
1106	76,863·16	535·86
1107	57,634·95	392·68
1108	56,479·80	1,186·46
1109	51,112·34	876·11

Statement showing the quantity of foreign liquor imported for consumption during the last five years.

1105	35,859·7 gallons.
1106	30,159·4 ,,
1107	25,586·9 ,,
1108	21,298·3 ,,
1109	24,425·19 ,,

Appendix III.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 75.**

Statement showing the quantity and value of tobacco imported into the State during the years 1107, 1108 and 1109.

Year.	*Quantity Cds.*	*Value Bh.Rs.*
1107	17,821	46,C8,350
1108	21,009	49,59,505
1109	17,922	47,32,050

Appendix IV.

***Vide* Answer to Question No 76.**

Statement showing the value of beedi leaves imported into Travancore during each of the past five years.

Years.		*Value.* Bh. Rs.
1105	...	69,719
1106	...	1,09,188
1107	..	2,13,432
1108	...	1,08,636
1109	...	1,64,407
	Average	1,33,076 2/5

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